

affairs of the responsibly governed Colonies. I will not say it will be exactly apart, because there is, and must be, at the head at any rate, a connecting link between the several parts of any office, but there will be one division which you will feel will be concerned with the business of all the self-governing Colonies, and not directly with that of the Crown Colonies. That is what I aim at. Whether I can carry it out today or tomorrow, or at what particular time I cannot promise.

In due course, Lord Elgin sent a despatch, dated September 21, 1907, to the Dominions setting out the reorganization that he had carried into effect, to redeem his pledge to the Conference - the formation of a "Dominions Division" within the Colonial Office.

Lord Crewe, in a letter of March 25, 1909, wrote to Earl Grey that at the Colonial Conference of 1907, Deakin and Jameson, and in a lesser degree, Sir Joseph Ward, advocated differentiation between the business of the self-governing Dominions and the Crown Colonies, with the establishment of a Secretariat of a composite and semi-independent character under the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. Sir Wilfrid Laurier was entirely opposed to the idea of an Imperial Council, which Australia and New Zealand were prepared to favour, and only accepted the Secretariat on the distinct understanding that it would be under the ministerial responsibility of the Secretary of State for the Colonies. He realized and emphasized the fact that the Prime Minister being a very busy man, could not be expected to undertake the responsibility for the Secretariat, and it was understood that he had no complaint to make as to the way in which Canadian business was conducted by the Colonial Office. (1)

(1) Crewe to Grey. Grey of Howith Collection. Vol.15 Folder 34.